

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 10139 011922Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 NSF-01 NASA-01 DOE-15
SOE-02 EB-08 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 COME-00 L-03
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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3199
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USLO PEKING

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DEPT. FOR O. GANLEY/OES
PARIS FOR NASA REPRESENTATIVE
DEPT. PASS TO NSF DEPUTY DIRECTOR PIMENTEL

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: TSPA, IT
SUBJ: NSF-CNR DISCUSSIONS ON THE USE OF AN ITALIAN BASE FOR
THE LAUNCH OF US SCIENTIFIC BALLONS

1. SUMMARY. DR. GIORGIO TESI (NSF) MET ON MAY 25 WITH DRS. LIVIO SCARSI AND BRUNO MALAVASI OF THE ITALIAN NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL (CNR) TO DISCUSS THE PROJECTED JULY LAUNCH OF A US SCIENTIFIC BALLON FROM THE MILO BASE NEAR TRAPANI IN SICILY. AN INFORMAL AGREEMENT WAS REACHED FOR THE JULY LAUNCH, BUT THE QUESTION OF A LONGER-TERM AGREEMENT FOR SUCH US LAUNCHES, AS WELL AS THE QUESTION OF ITALIAN USE OF US BALLON FACILITIES AT PALESTINE (TEXAS), WILL REQUIRE FURTHER ACTION IN THE FUTURE. END SUMMARY.

2. PRIOR TO THE MEETING, CNR HAD RECEIVED A TELEX FROM NSF REQUESTING SERVICES FOR THE JULY LAUNCH AT THE MILO BASE. MALAVASI SAID THAT CNR HAD ALREADY AGREED TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY
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PAGE 02 ROME 10139 011922Z

LOGISTIC SUPPORT, INCLUDING ASSISTANCE IN CLEARING AMERICAN EQUIPMENT THROUGH ITALIAN CUSTOMS. MALAVASI WAS CERTAIN THAT EVERYTHING WAS IN ORDER FOR THE ARRIVAL OF THE AMERICAN BALLOON AND EQUIPMENT. THE ONLY THING HE NEEDED TO KNOW WAS THE NUMBER OF AMERICAN AND THEIR LENGTH OF STAY IN ORDER TO MAKE HOTEL RESERVATIONS IN TRAPANI. NSF WILL PROVIDE THIS INFORMATION THROUGH THE US EMBASSY ROME.

3. SCARSI TOLD TESI THAT ITALY WOULD LIKE TO NEGOTIATE AN AGREEMENT FOR ITALIAN SCIENTISTS TO USE THE PALESTINE, TEXAS BASE. TESI AGREED TO SEND A LETTER SIGNED BY NSF DIRECTOR ATKINSON THAT, WHEN SIGNED AND RETURNED BY CNR, WILL CONSTITUTE AN AGREEMENT FOR THE ITALIAN USE OF PALESTINE ON AN EXPENSE REIMBURSABLE BASIS.

4. SCARSI ALSO TOLD TESI THAT CNR WOULD LIKE TO NEGOTIATE A LONG-TERM AGREEMENT WITH THE US FOR THE EXPLOITATION OF THE MILO BASE; RATHER THAN NEGOTATING AN AGREEMENT FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL LAUNCH, AS IT WAS DONE SO FAR. TESI REPLIED THAT THIS AGREEMENT COULD COME INTO EFFECT ONLY IF THE US COULD FIND ENOUGH INTEREST FROM SCIENTISTS IN VARIOUS AGENCIES. A CORRESPONDENCE ON THIS SUBJECT WAS STARTED BETWEEN CNR PRESIDENT QUAGLIARIELLO AND ATKINSON SOME TIME AGO BUT NSF HAS NOT RECEIVED A REPLY YET TO THE SEPTEMBER 77 LETTER OF ATKINSON TO QUAGLIARIELLO. SCARSI ADMITTED THAT THIS WAS DUE TO PERSONNEL AND ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES AT CNR. WITH THE NEW ITALIAN FIVE YEAR PLAN FOR SPACE SCIENCES, SCARSI HOPED ITALY COULD OBTAIN MONEY FOR EQUIPPING MILO AS A GOOD BASE TO SERVE THE US, ITALY AND OTHER WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. TO GET THIS FINANCING SCARSI HAD TO SHOW SOMETHING IN WRITING THAT WOULD JUSTIFY THE REQUEST FOR MONEY TO EQUIP MILO, HENCE THE ITALIAN INTEREST IN A LONG-TERM AGREEMENT. IT WAS AGREED THAT CNR WOULD PREPARE A LETTER WITH A DETAILED PROPOSAL SO THAT NSF MAY STUDY IT AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 ROME 10139 011922Z

GIVE A REPLY.

5. SCARSI MENTIONED IN THE COURSE OF THE CONVERSATION THAT ITALY HAS A SCIENTIFIC ATTACHE IN PEKING WHO COMES FROM CNR AND WHO IS TRYING TO ARRANGE THAT CHINA WOULD BE THE COUNTRY WHERE BALLOONS WOULD END THE TRIP AFTER CROSSING THE ATLANTIC, THE US AND THE PACIFIC. HE SAID THAT ASIDE FROM CHINA, SPAIN, GERMANY, FRANCE AND ENGLAND ARE INTERESTED IN THE BALLOON BASE AT MILO.

6. THE CONVERSATION ENDED ON A CORDIAL NOTE, WITH THE ITALIANS COMMITTED TO ASSISTING THE JULY US LAUNCH AND BOTH AIDES PREPARED TO THINK ABOUT A LONGER-TERM AGREEMENT. NSF AND CNR AGREED TO USE THE EMBASSY FOR FUTURE COMMUNICATIONS. THIS IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT, SINCE THE LAUNCH OF SCIENTIFIC BALLOONS IN ITALY COULD CONCEIVABLY BE MISINTERPRETED BY THE PRESS, AND IN ADDITION THE EMBASSY MAY BE ABLE TO HELP IN BRINGING THE NEED FOR FINANCING THE MILO BASE TO THE ATTENTION OF HIGH-LEVEL ITALIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ENSURE THAT COMMUNICATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT ARE PASSED THROUGH THE AND NOT RPT NOT DIRECTLY FROM NSF

TO CNR, AS HAS BEEN DONE IN THE PAST.GARDNER

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 01 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition History: n/a
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